

BUDGET WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This meeting was conducted by Zoom video conferencing due to CDC recommendations in response to COVID-19

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING: Darren Collier, Alan Snow and Ray West. Juan Topete was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT via ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING: City Administrator Tom Short and City Clerk Traci Cox.

Mr. Snow called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

***NOTE:** All areas *“italic”* below were submitted to the Committee in a pre-meeting memo by Mr. Short.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Consideration and approval of minutes from previous meeting.**

Mr. Collier made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9 Budget meeting.
Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider and discuss Fiscal 2021 Budget.**

“Normally, we would be considering the revenue projections for the upcoming fiscal year. These would include, graphs for the larger revenue line items in the General Fund. It would also be requested that the Committee endorse the numbers as the “consensus estimates” and recommend to the Council that the revenue estimates be confirmed for Fiscal 2021. In light of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, current projections regarding its peak, actions taken by the Federal, State and local governments regarding items such as social distancing, quarantine, etc., are being implemented or changing daily. The full economic impact of these decisions/policies have yet to be seen, but will inevitably materialize. Additionally, Governor Parson announced incoming funding cuts of about \$180 million for the State’s current fiscal year. It is in light of some of these issues we’d like to visit about the fiscal 2021 budget.”

Mr. Short discussed concerns regarding the fiscal impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have on the budget and the budget process. It has changed communication and meeting formats. This creates problems in developing a budget for the next fiscal year. Provisions in the Charter allow for amounts appropriated for the current operations for the current fiscal year to carry over to the ensuing fiscal year on a prorated month-to-month basis. Mr. Collier moved to pause the 2021 budget process and carry forward the budget allocations for the current fiscal year into the 2021 fiscal year. Motion carried. The City can still take action on the Carthage Water & Electric budget separately.

2 **Staff Reports**

*“Sales Tax Numbers: As of the writing of this memo, the City had not yet received the Sales Tax Report for April for inclusion in the packet. We have heard it through the grapevine that the Department of Revenue (DOR) is processing payments and cutting checks to cities while still addressing COVID 19 issues. When the City receives it, we will distribute the information to the Committee and Council. **Budget Hearings:** Budget hearings currently scheduled for April 20, 22, and 23, 2020 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) starting at 5:30 p.m. include the Agencies. Currently scheduled are the Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development Services, the Humane Society, and the CVB. The Library, base/softball organizations and the Over 60 Center are not scheduled to appear as has been done the last few years. **Budget statements** for March are included. March represents the 75% level of the budget year. On the revenue two funds, Golf and Capital improvements are below this level. We’ll go into this more at the meeting.”*

Mr. Short discussed the monthly budget summary noting concerns with the Golf Course revenue. April sales tax revenues decreased 5.8% from the same month last year. Concerns are sales tax revenues will continue to decline.

3. **Other Business.** None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:58 P.M. on motion by Mr. Collier.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Cox